

19 April 19, 2016

RE: SB826

Dear Senate Committee Members.

I am in Support of the Repeal and Replace Common Core Bill.

I saw my son, at 9 years of age, during 4th grade, lose his love of learning. From Sept – Nov of 2014, his favorite subject (math) was reduced to months of review of subtraction, multiplication, and division, one per subsequent month. End of third grade he was already doing 5th grade math in a Montessori charter school he attended. But the teaching changed in 4th grade. By November, he informed me he hated Math. By December he was bored and I started to receive phone calls from the principal that he was disruptive during class. In January I noticed he was bringing home half sheet papers on 'editing' taking one sentence and editing to rewrite the sentence below, in corrected form. ALL the rewrites were also Incorrect! I asked the teachers, and later the principal, "what is this"? How do they teach Editing without teaching Correct GRAMMAR first ?

The answer was that this is the way the curriculum ordered the teaching. I knew something was wrong with the method of teaching.

By February he cried on the way in to school and on the way home. He hated school. He didn't know why he was always in trouble at school, even if he was trying to be good. He wanted to die!

By March he begged me to homeschool him. I couldn't . He took out his anger and frustrations on his younger siblings and pets. I was frantic... what did I do to my son? Nothing. It was school and the school environment. No changes at home at all.

I was upset! If my son would have hurt the younger ones I would have called the police myself ! he has never done this before.

I took him to counseling - - the good boy I knew through 3rd grade was growing into a derelict over 5 months of school in 4th grade!

I homeschooled the next Fall. By the end of October, after talking about the second Narnia book we read together, my now 10 year old informed me, with a smile on his face:

"Mami. I don't want to die any more. I like my life"!

How is this possible!?! At age 10?